

January 8, 1985

TO: ✓ Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement Folder
FROM: David Lof, Mining Field Specialist *DL*
RE: Co-op Mining Company, Bear Creek Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025,
Folder #7, Emery County, Utah

DATE: November 8-9, 1984
TIME: 1:30 p.m.-2:50 p.m. and
10:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. respectively
WEATHER: Cold, with snow showers, and
Clear, cold and windy, respectively
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Dennis White, Mel Coonrod
STATE OFFICIALS: David Lof
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: None

Compliance With Permanent Performance Standards

UMC 771 et al Permits

The operator is currently operating under an interim approval letter from the Division dated March 20, 1981, which allows the operation of the mine until the permanent program approval is issued. The most recent modification approval received by the operator was an October 12, 1983 final approval for the operator's scalehouse modification.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

The mine identification sign for the operation was laying down on the ground so I asked Mr. Coonrod to have it posted in a more permanent manner. The information on the sign was complete and accurate.

UMC 817.21-.23 Topsoil

The operator's topsoil stockpile is located east of their scalehouse facilities and is protected by a berm and ditch, and a topsoil marker is posted.

UMC 817.41-.51 Hydrologic Balance

Notice of Violation N84-4-13-3, #2 of 3

This violation was issued October 24, 1984 for the operator's failure to maintain the inlet and outlet of the undisturbed culvert under the coal stockpile pad, and the undisturbed diversion behind the shop. The abatement deadline for the violation was November 8, 1984.

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The operator had cleaned the inlet to the undisturbed diversion at the time of inspection on October 23, 1984. When I checked the inlet during this inspection, it was clear except for tumbleweeds which had piled up in front of the inlet, I asked Dennis White to have somebody clean the weeds out so that sediment and debris would not build up behind the tumble weed and plug the inlet.

The operator had cleaned the sediment away from the outlet of the undisturbed culvert.

The operator had not reconstructed that portion of the undisturbed diversion behind the shop which conveys the runoff down the slope from the coal stockpile area to the shop pad. Mr. White said that he was not aware that this had to be repaired and said that he could have it completed by the next day (November 9, 1984).

Notice of Violation N84-4-13-3, #1 of 3

This violation was written for the operators failure to maintain the berm around the perimeter of the shop pad so that all disturbed area runoff would pass through the sediment pond. The violation required that the operator maintain the berm, grade the pad so that water would not pond against the berm, and pass runoff from the pad through a loose strawfilter or siltfence. This work was to be completed by November 8, 1984.

The operator had maintained that portion of the berm which is directly east of the shop and installed a culvert from the shop pad down to the sediment pond inlet ditch. The operator had not repaired the southeast portion of the berm which had been the primary concern. Mr. White said that he evidently misunderstood what Mr. Coonrod had told him. He said that he had planned to do more work on the shop pad that afternoon, that he would complete the repairs of the berm, and grade the shop yard as much as possible toward the culvert so that runoff from the entire pad would go to the sediment pond.

When I returned to the mine on November 9, 1984 with Mr. Coonrod, I found that Mr. White had completed the repairs to the berm and done some additional grading work on the shop pad. However, there still was a low area against the berm on the extreme south end of the pad.

While inspecting the sediment pond we found that there was still a large amount of sediment which had been stockpiled at the north end of the sediment pond. I told Mr. Coonrod that this sediment had to be removed from the sediment pond prior to my next inspection. I suggested that they use it for fill on the shop pad so that they could bring up the grade at the south end of the pad.

Due to the fact that the operator had diligently pursued the remedial actions required, the abatement deadline for the violation was extended on November 9, 1984 to November 15, 1984 in order to allow time to complete the remedial actions required.

Notice of Violation N84-4-13-3, #3 of 3

This violation was issued to the operator on October 24, 1984 for their failure to maintain the sediment pond to prevent short circuiting.

The remedial action required that the operator close the dewatering device valve and insure that it would remain closed unless the sediment pond was being dewatered in accordance with the applicable regulations. The time for abatement was October 24, 1984.

The violation had been pointed out to the operator during the October 23, 1984 inspection at which time they had corrected the problem. At the time of this inspection the decant valve was closed. Mr. White said that they were going to install a chain and padlock to secure the valve as I had previously suggested.

60 Inch Scalehouse Undisturbed Culvert

The operator has installed sections of 60 inch concrete culverting in the Bear Creek stream channel behind the scalehouse to serve as an undisturbed bypass culvert. The operator had not completed the installation of the culvert. The sections needed to be brought flush with each other and the joints grouted. The culvert could then be backfilled, and inlet and outlet controls can be put in place. On November 9, 1984 I informed Mr. Coonrod that they would have to complete the inlet of the 60 inch bypass culvert this year or they would more than likely be in a violation situation in the spring if any erosion or sediment loading occurred during high spring runoff because the culvert was not completed.

Installation of Culvert Downspouts

I discussed with Mr. Coonrod the installation of downspouts on the undisturbed culvert under the upper storage pad, cross culverts for the portal access road, and the disturbed area runoff culvert from the portal deck. Mr. Coonrod said that he was going to look into the possibility of using wire reinforced flexible downspout rather than corrugated metal pipe.

Groundwater Monitoring Program Drilling

The operator had removed the drill from behind the shop where they had been drilling for the ground water monitoring program. After removing the drill they reconstructed the undisturbed diversion on the west side of the shop.

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UMC 817.52 Surface and Groundwater Monitoring.

The operator currently holds NPDES permit #UT-0023612 dated March 23, 1982 which expires December 31, 1986. Surface water monitoring data was available through September 1984 for the upper and lower monitoring points on Bear Creek. The operator is currently only monitoring four parameters pH, Manganese, Iron, and TSS. There were no apparent problems with the monitoring data which was reviewed.

UMC 817.150-.176 Roads

The access/haul road appeared to be fairly well maintained. According to Mr. Coonrod the road is permitted from the scalehouse up to the portals. According to the operators MRP submittals their permit area extends several hundred feet down canyon from the scalehouse.

The operator needed to maintain the diversion along the inside of the road to the crusher pad.

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cc: Donna Griffin, OSM
Mel Coonrod, Co-op Mining Company
Mary Boucek, DOGM
Joe Helfrich, DOGM

Statistics:

Vehicle: EX49611 - 481 miles
Per Diem: 1 person X 2 days, 3.5 hours = \$ 113.90
Grant: A&E
0072Q-2-5